

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit replacement sheets to correct reference number 296 in FIG. 3 and reference number 294 in FIG. 10-1 to conform to the specification. Entry of the replacement sheets is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed October 5, 2007. Claims 1-18, 22 and 27-33 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 27-28 are rejected and claims 3-18, 22 and 29-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statement filed March 1, 2004 did not include a Form 1449 listing the cited material and references in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1). On August 6, 2007, Applicant filed a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement to cite the references that were to be cited in the original Statement filed March 1, 2004. The cited references on the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 6, 2007 were acknowledged and considered by the Examiner on September 30, 2007.

Response to Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to on the basis that reference character 392 in FIG. 14 is not mentioned in the specification. In response to the objection to the drawings, Applicants have amended the specification to include a description of reference number 392. Based upon the amendment to the specification, withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Response to Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to on the basis that on page 8, lines 8 and 14, reference number 296 is used to refer to “ball pads” and “sensor block” and on page 14, line 22, “286” should be –386–. Applicant has amended the specification to eliminate the duplication of reference number 296 and to correct reference number 286 on page 14, line 22 of the specification. Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 27-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by La Valle, U.S. Patent No. 3,706,122. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite the merge tool includes at least one merge finger or spreader to engage at least one head or head suspension assembly which

is believed allowable based upon the allowability of claim 9. Claims 2 and 28 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus are allowable, *inter alia* based upon the allowability of claim 1.

Objected claims 3-12, 16, 28, 32 and 33 are dependent upon claim 1 and thus are allowable *inter alia* based upon the allowability of claim 1. Objected claim 13 is amended to independent form. Allowance of amended claim 13 and dependent claim 14-15 and 17 is respectfully requested. Objected claim 29 is amended to independent form. Allowance of claim 29 and dependent claims 18, 22, 27 and 30-31 is respectfully requested.

Favorable action and a notice of allowance for claims 1-18, 22 and 27-33 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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